

## *Leucophaeus atricilla* (Laughing Gull)

### Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** Aves (Birds)

**Order:** Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

**Family:** Laridae (Gulls, Jaegers, Kittiwakes, Skimmers, Skuas, And Terns)

#### General comments:

Few colonies but high population growth despite control efforts. 2009 census: 4,469 pairs

#### Species Conservation Range Maps for Laughing Gull:

Town Map: [Leucophaeus atricilla\\_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Leucophaeus atricilla\\_HUC12.pdf](#)

#### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

**Risk of Extirpation:** NA

**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:**

*Leucophaeus atricilla* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

**Recent Significant Declines:** NA

**Regional Endemic:** NA

**High Regional Conservation Priority:** NA

**High Climate Change Vulnerability:** NA

**Understudied rare taxa:** NA

**Historical:** NA

**Culturally Significant:** NA

#### Habitats Assigned to Laughing Gull:

Formation Name	Cliff & Rock
Macrogroup Name	Rocky Coast
Habitat System Name:	Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast <b>**Primary Habitat**</b>
Formation Name	Subtidal
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)
Habitat System Name:	Nearshore

#### Stressors Assigned to Laughing Gull:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Laughing Gull or other Priority 3 SGCN.

#### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Laughing Gull:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Laughing Gull or other Priority 3 SGCN.

#### Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Continue seabird restoration activities at historic nesting sites using social attraction, vegetation management, and predator control			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Determine which factors influence breeding success and productivity			

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#### **Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Determine the association with commercial fisheries and climate-induced changes to food availability

#### **Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

#### **Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

#### **Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*